

ROMANS—PART 69

Romans 10:16-21

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- 10:16 While it is true that faith is our response to God's message, it is also true that the message itself awakens faith, actually making it possible.
 - 10:16 In order to produce salvation, grace demands a response.
 - 10:16 Unbelief is the result of the choice not to believe.
 - 10:17 It is God who is at work, even in our response to His offer.
 - 10:17 The purpose of evangelism is not to use clever devices or to manipulate people into faith, but to authentically proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
 - 10:18 Paul's social group (specifically Israel) could not be excused on the basis they had not heard the message.
 - 10:18 Even King David in the Old Testament understood that God's revelation has been proclaimed to all who have ever lived or will ever live (Psalm 19:1-4; cf. Colossians 1:23). All people have both internal and external evidence of God.
 - 10:19 If uninformed people outside of Israel could understand the gospel, then certainly a highly favored group like the Jews had no grounds for claiming that it was beyond their understanding.
 - 10:19 Paul reminds of God's method to use other nations as instruments in carrying out his intention (Deuteronomy 32:21).
 - 10:20-21 Paul has firmly established that Israel's rejection of the Messiah was no surprise to God.
 - 10:21 Israel's rejection of Jesus had nothing to do with a lack of opportunity; it rested on willful disobedience. The rejected Him because of self-righteous prejudice, and they insisted on works to gain God's favor.
 - 10:20-21 The barrier to salvation is not racial or cultural but is a personal rejection of the God who offers it.

